

Lantern and Slide Department

Since our January announcement of this new line of service by the General Board, we have received so many letters from interested enquirers, that it is deemed wise to make a fuller statement than was contained in the January issue of this paper. Personal replies to all the letters received, answering in every detail the questions asked, have been quite impossible. We hope the following will explain our general position and purpose in the matter.

ORIGIN.

For his own pleasure, the General Secretary made a number of slides showing the actual scenes passed through in a trip to the Coast. These were used by him as occasion required. The calls for Travel Talks were too numerous for him to answer. He has little time or disposition to pose as a lecturer. So the slides were loaned. Friends who had no lantern outfit desired them, so a lantern had to be supplied. It appears that scores of places are earnestly desirous of just such service for occasional social evenings. The General Secretary believes that the General Office should be able to serve the Leagues and Sunday Schools in this particular, and so a beginning was made. This article will tell how far we have gone.

PURPOSE.

As announced some months ago, by the generosity of a friend a start was made to equip the Field Secretaries of the Board with a lantern and set of slides to illustrate the work of the Department. Mr. Westman has used these since last September with great profit, and Mr. Curtis finds their use very helpful in his territory. Each new Field Secretary will be fully equipped—Mr. Doyle in Manitoba and Mr. Langford in Saskatchewan when they take up their work at Conference. We hope to be in a position after a time to place a number of such outfits at the disposal of our District Sunday School Secretaries and Epworth League Executives, for use in the interests of the work on their several districts. But that will require both time and money, and we must wait. "Time" will surely come; the "money" we hope for. So far, but little has actually been spent from the General Fund for this new work, the bulk of the money having been privately and personally contributed. Give our General Fund more money and we will provide a more abundant service in this and other lines of desirable supply.

Please note what our purpose is not. It is not our purpose to conduct a commercial department for the general sale of lanterns and slides. It is not our purpose to compete with the Forward Movement Office in supplying missionary slides. It is not our purpose to advertise any special type or style of lantern. It is not our purpose to make this an easy way for our local societies to raise money, nor is it our purpose to depend on it as a source of financial profit to the General Board. How far this new line of work may develop we cannot say, but our desire and aim is far from seeing our way clear now are simply this: To place at the disposal of any of our people, no matter to what organization they belong, at the lowest possible expense, suitable and sufficient pictorial material for a pleasant and profitable social or literary evening. That there is abundant room for us in this way to serve our friends, we have ample proof in the numerous letters that have reached us from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, since the first intimation of our plan was given out.

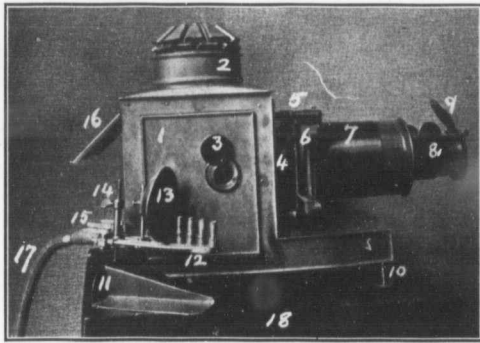
OUTFITS.

If electric power were available in every

church and school-house we would recommend no other source of illumination. But it is within reach as yet, of only a comparatively few. Hence we must have some light that is independent, and no other can compare with acetylene gas for simplicity, safety, and illuminating power combined with inexpensiveness and portability. We have to depend therefore, on this illuminant in the great majority of cases.

There are lanterns in great variety, and one may prefer one form which would be wholly unacceptable to another. It is a question of choice, and the supreme test with us is always, not the appearance of the lantern that makes the picture, but the appearance of the picture the lantern makes. Lanterns may be both pretty and portable yet lack power, and we prefer to judge of an instrument's efficiency by what it puts upon the screen rather than by how it looks on the stand or in the case.

This explains why we have the type of lantern illustrated herewith. We chose this form after years of practical experience and a thorough personal examination of the most of the various makes, both English and American. In our judg-



ment there is no acetylene outfit procurable at any price that will stand as much wear and tear or make better pictures on the screen. And we deem these good enough reasons for our choice. Any of our friends may call at the office and see a demonstration for themselves at any time. When we can find anything stronger and better in action than the type of lanterns we have, we will secure the better kind, for the best is none too good for our work.

The generators we use are the best portable acetylene outfits we know of, and our judgment is that nothing lighter or more compact can begin to compare with these in the amount and quality of light passed to the screen. No generator that one "can carry in a hand bag" will provide a constant and sufficient supply of gas for the four-burner gas jet we use, and our experience abundantly proves that no fewer number of burners will give as good a light. We will make the comparison for anyone who wishes it in the office at any time.

So that, as far as we know, our outfits throughout, lantern, lenses, light, and personally made slides, are as good as can be procured of the kind. And when we have money enough we shall equip the lanterns with the most efficient electric lamps for attachment to the ordinary house supply, wherever electricity is available of suitable voltage. We have

sent one such electric lamp to Mr. Westman for his use on the road, and would like to be able to purchase a dozen more, but must wait.

The lantern illustrated herewith, and the explanations attached will show any intelligent operator the ease with which the whole may be put together and used. The generator is simple and safe, and directions accompany it in every case.

Everything needed for the evening's entertainment is included in the carrying-case sent out, and no person need fear to put it all together and work it with ease and comfort if only ordinary intelligence and caution be employed.

SLIDES.

We have plans for a more extensive lot of slides; but for the present can offer only the following sets:

1. *A Visit to the Queen City.* This comprises some 150 slides of Toronto, most of which are from exclusive negatives. It forms a splendid set and has given universal pleasure and satisfaction. Type-written notes are included.

2. *Toronto to the Coast.* In this are 125 slides, taking the tourist on a trip from Union Station, Toronto, to the Pacific Coast via the Kootenays, and back

through the mountains to Calgary where the trip ends. Type-written notes are included.

3. *Calgary to Port Simpson.* No views east of Calgary are shown in this set of 125 slides; but the trip starts at Calgary, proceeds through the mountains to the Coast, and then up through Northern British Columbia to Prince Rupert and Port Simpson. A side trip to Kitimaat is incidentally taken in this imaginary journey. Type-written notes are included.

4. *Winnipeg to Niagara Falls.* This has been arranged primarily for our Manitoba friends, but is of interest to all. It starts from Winnipeg and proceeds through to Toronto, where a stop over is enjoyed and the sights seen. Then on by Lake steamer to the Falls where the scenic beauties of this wonderful place are shown as they appear both in summer and winter.

5. *The Life of John Wesley.* Two sets of slides have been drawn from for this evening. The whole, as we have arranged it, comprises about 110 pictures, half of which are colored. These are all of English manufacture, and have been pronounced good by many who have used them. A type-written reading is included.

6. *An Evening with Tennyson.* Some 75 slides have been skillfully utilized in